

Claims

1. Use of a material comprising from 30 to 80 % by weight of ursolic
5 acid, from 2 to 25 % by weight of oleanolic acid and from 1 to 68% by
weight of triterpenoic acids other than ursolic acid or oleanolic acid, or
derivatives of any of these acids, said percentages being based on total
weight of said acids or derivatives and the percentages of said acids or
derivatives adding up to 100%, in the manufacture of a composition for the
10 prevention or treatment of hypersensitivity and/or hyper-reactivity.
2. Use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hypersensitivity is an allergy.
3. Use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the composition
15 decreases the level of IgE.
4. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition
inhibits or prevents constriction of the bronchial tubes.
- 20 5. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition
is a pharmaceutical composition, a foodstuff or a food supplement.
6. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein ursolic acid
and/or oleanolic acid are in the form of the sodium or potassium salt.
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7. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein ursolic acid
and/or oleanolic acid are in the form of an ester with an alcohol comprising
from 2 to 22 carbon atoms.

8. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the composition comprises a total amount of ursolic and oleanolic acid in a dosage amount of from 0.02 g to 20 g per day.
- 5 9. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the ursolic acid and oleanolic acid are extractable from fruit skin.
- 10 10. Use as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fruit skin is derived from fruit selected from apples, cranberries, olives, grapes and mixtures thereof.
- 15 11. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the composition is a foodstuff selected from the group consisting of margarines, fat continuous or water continuous or bicontinuous spreads, fat reduced spreads, confectionery products such as chocolate or chocolate coatings or chocolate filling or bakery fillings, ice creams, ice cream coatings, ice cream inclusions, dressings, mayonnaises, cheeses, cream alternatives, dry soups, drinks, cereal bars, sauces, snack bars, dairy products, clinical nutrition products and infant formulations.
- 20 12. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition in the form of a tablet, capsule, solution or emulsion.
- 25 13. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the composition is a food supplement in the form of a soft gel or a hard capsule comprising an encapsulating material selected from the group consisting of gelatin,

starch, modified starch, starch derivatives such as glucose, sucrose, lactose and fructose.

14. Use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the composition
5 comprises one or more further components selected from conjugated
linoleic acid (CLA), fish oil, conjugated trienoic acids and mixtures thereof.

15. Use of ursolic acid or its derivatives or oleanolic acid or its
derivatives, or mixtures thereof, in the manufacture of a composition for the
10 prevention or treatment of hyper-reactivity.